

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 15630 232014Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 231924Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3100

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15630

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: CASC, CU, US, BE

SUBJECT: LUNT-THOMPSON EXCHANGE

REF: BONN 15323

1. EMBASSY ON SEPTEMBER 23 RECEIVED MAILED LETTER FROM
ATTORNEY VOGEL DATED SEPTEMBER 22 WITH FOLLOWING
WORDING (TRANSLATION):

BEGIN QUOTE PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT IN OUR MATTER I
HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO TELL YOU ANYTHING DEFINITIVE
AND AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DO SO EVEN TODAY.

'QUITE APPARENTLY, THE HOPE FOR THE OTHER
ALTERNATIVE CONTINUES TO EXIST IN CUBA, ALTHOUGH
YOU HAVE REFUSED. APPARENTLY THIS REFUSAL IS NOT
ACCEPTED AS YOUR FINAL WORD. SHOULD THE OCCASION
PRESENT ITSELF FOR YOU AGAIN TO REPEAT YOUR NEGATIVE
VIEW IN SOME MANNER THAT CANNOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD,
THIS WOULD CERTAINLY BE HELPFUL.

'I CONTINUE OF COURSE TO BE INTERESTED IN THE
MATTER AND SHALL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS.
UNFORTUNATELY SUCH CASES REQUIRE A LOT OF TIME.
DESPITE ALL DIFFICULTIES, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THERE WILL
BE A FAVORABLE CONCLUSION OF THIS MATTER.

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PAGE 02 BONN 15630 232014Z

'YOU HAVE SHOWN MUCH PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING.
FOR THIS I REMAIN VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU. END QUOTE

2. FROM THIS COMMUNICATION IT APPEARS THAT
MESSAGE PASSED TO CUBANS BY SWISS EMBASSY, QUOTED
PARA 1 OF STATE'S 176283, HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY
GOC AS SUFFICIENTLY FINAL TURNDOWN TO PERMIT SUBJECT
EXCHANGE TO PROCEED. POSSIBLY, GOC BELIEVES, DESPITE
PREVIOUS US POSITION CONCERNING LEBRON, THAT NEW
DEVELOPMENTS IN US/CUBAN RELATIONS COULD EVENTUALLY
MAKE LEBRON RELEASE BY US POSSIBLE. IN ANY EVENT,
VOGEL APPEARS TO BE TELLING US THAT USG MUST DO MORE
TO CONVINCE GOC THAT LEBRON EXCHANGE FOR LUNT IS NOT
POSSIBLE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

3. EMBASSY WOULD BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO VOGEL'S
LETTER WITH EMBASSY LETTER TO VOGEL MAKING WHATEVER
STATEMENT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO SEEK TO
DISPEL CUBAN EXPECTATIONS. AS USE OF GDR CHANNEL
TO CONVEY NEGATIVE USG VIEW ON LEBRON RELEASE HAS
PROVED INEFFECTIVE IN PAST, IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT
SUCH LETTER WOULD HELP NOW. PERHAPS BEST COURSE WOULD
BE FOR US OFFICIAL TO REITERATE US POSITION DIRECTLY
TO CUBAN OFFICIALS POSSIBLY IN COURSE OF CONTACTS ON
PERIPHERY OF GA. TIMING OF VOGEL LETTER SHORTLY
AFTER OPENING OF UNGA MAY BE MORE THAN COINCIDENTAL.
ANOTHER POSSIBILITY COULD BE FURTHER STATEMENT THROUGH
SWISS OR BELGIAN CHANNEL. CUBANS MAY STILL REGARD
GDR AS INTERESTED, AND THUS UNRELIABLE, SOURCE ON
OUR INTENT.
HILLENBRAND

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